

Commissioner for Patents
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2006
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Serial No. 10/803,916

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A total of 9 claims remain pending in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Office Action mailed March 7, 2006 wherefore reconsideration of this application is requested.

By way of the above-noted amendments, claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19 and 20 have been cancelled. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and the intervening claims. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 10 and the intervening claims. Claim 16 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Claims 5, 6, and 13, 15-18 remain pending in this application.


In preparing the above-noted amendments, careful attention was paid to ensure that no new subject matter has been introduced.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 5, 6 and 13-18. The claims have been rewritten and should now stand in allowable form.

In regards to the Examiner's rejections made to claims 1, 10, 12 and 19 under 35 USC § 102(b) and claims 2-4, 7-9, 11 and 20 rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejections are now moot as the rejected claims have been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is believed that the patent application is now in a condition for allowance, and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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